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New Snag in House On Korea Probe Data

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The House leadership's attempt to force President Park Chung Hee to provide a key witness in the South Korean influence buying probe has run into major problems.

The House International Relations Committee has claimed jurisdiction over a leadership-sponsored resolution which threatens to cut off all non-military assistance to South Korea unless the witness is delivered.

The committee moved in yesterday after an attempt by the leadership to call up the resolution on the House floor suddenly was blocked on procedural grounds.

Chairman Clement Zablocki, D-Wis., of the International Relations Committee said last night that he would hold a hearing on Monday on the resolution, which was the product of an effort by House special counsel Leon Jaworski to force South Korean cooperation.

Jaworski's resolution was prepared with the help of House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill Jr., D-Mass., who promised to help the former Watergate special prosecutor when he ran into trouble in probing alleged South Korean payoffs to U.S. congressmen.

JAWORSKI IS trying to get the testimony of former South Korean ambassador, Kim Dong Jo, who allegedly delivered envelopes stuffed with \$100 bills to at least 24 congressmen. Several witnesses have described this activity to investigators of the House ethics committee.

The problem is that Jaworski does not know who the congressmen were, the legislators certainly wouldn't volunteer such information, and Kim is the best, and perhaps only, possible source. President Park, however, is claiming diplomatic immunity for his former ambassador, a position

which, among other things, avoids probable embarrassment for his government.

Zablocki was furious yesterday when the resolution threatening to cut off non-military assistance to South Korea was brought up by O'Neill, with the co-sponsorship of House Democratic Leader Jim Wright of Texas, Republican Leader John Rhodes of Arizona and all the members the House ethics committee.

Zablocki complained to O'Neill, asserted his committee's jurisdiction over the resolution and said he would call State Department witnesses to explore the implications of such a threat to South Korea.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S position on threatening South Korea to force testimony by a former ambassador is no secret. The department is against it, both on grounds that such action would violate international conventions, and in fear that U.S. diplomats might be embarrassed by foreign governments wanting information.

Zablocki said he did not want to make a major issue of the jurisdictional affront he suffered yesterday. But, he said, he was more concerned about what the resolution would do.

FOR EXAMPLE, IT would put the House on record as opposing all non-military aid to South Korea — both direct and indirect — until Kim Dong Jo is produced. And, Zablocki said, it would require him to give his evidence "under oath."

Zablocki also agreed that some expression of the House's resolve to clean up the Korean influence-buying scandal is warranted. He said it would be appropriate to have something between yesterday's leadership resolution and an action taken earlier by the House merely urging South Korea's cooperation.